

Borough of



Accrington

PUBLIC HEALTH DEPARTMENT.



ANNUAL REPORT

OF THE

Medical Officer of Health


REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

including the

Reports of the Chief Sanitary Inspector
and Cleansing Superintendent

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

== 1952 ==



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MEMBERS OF THE HEALTH COMMITTEE.

1952-53.

THE MAYOR, COUNCILLOR A. BROWN, J.P.
(ex-officio).

Chairman :

*ALDERMAN W. HOWSON.

Vice-Chairman :

*ALDERMAN J. S. HARGREAVES.

ALDERMAN Mrs. HAINES.

,, R. LANCASTER.

COUNCILLOR N. BENTLEY.

* ,, J. B. BIRCH.

* ,, F. CAREFOOT.

,, A. DAWSON.

,, W. RIDEHALGH.

* ,, A. RILEY.

,, F. WILKINSON.

,, Miss WORSLEY.

*Members of the Health Sub-Committee.

**STAFF OF THE HEALTH AND CLEANSING
DEPARTMENT.**

Medical Officer of Health :

REGINALD C. WEBSTER, B.Sc., M.D., D.P.H., D.C.H.

Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

(Full-time Officer) :

JOHN A. HINDLE, Cert.R.San.I., M.Inst.P.C.

Deputy Chief Sanitary Inspector and Cleansing Superintendent

(Full-time Officer) :

FRANK KENNIFORD, M.R.San.I.

Additional Sanitary Inspectors (Full-time Officers) :

WILLIAM J. WOLSTENHOLME, M.R.San.I.

KEITH FODEN, M.R.San.I.

(One vacancy).

Student Sanitary Inspector :

GORDON ECCLES.

Infectious Diseases Officer, etc. :

HUBERT MULHALL.

Senior Foreman :

ERNEST LIVESEY.

CLERICAL STAFF :

Public Health Offices :

JOHN WALMSLEY.

ROBERT McCONNELL.

Mrs. A. THORNLEY.

Cleansing Depôt :

WALTER OGDEN.

Refuse Disposal Works :

ROBERT A. WALMSLEY.

Public Health Department,

Town Hall,

Accrington.

**To the Mayor, Aldermen and Councillors
of the Borough of Accrington.**

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present the Annual Report on the Health of the Borough for the year 1952.

I would draw attention to the note on water supplies on page 6 of the report; similar comments have been made for many years, but the extent of housing in the Borough is increasing which makes the problem greater. Although we have not a notably dry climate here we are still short of water. I recall a stay in a certain tropical area notorious for one of the highest rainfalls in the world, where water was for some weeks restricted to a trickle for quarter of of an hour twice daily. Neither the rainfall nor the shortage of supplies are quite so severe in Accrington, but the supply causes concern.

Infant Mortality shows a steep decline from 39.6 in 1951 to 25.4. This is by far the lowest figure ever recorded for the Borough and compares well with an average of 40.5 for the preceding ten years. It is to be hoped this better standard will be maintained.

The incidence of infectious diseases was low, except for measles, but fortunately this disease was mild in character.

I thank the members of the Council for their confidence and support during the year and Mr. Hindle and his staff for their friendly co-operation through the year.

I remain,

Your obedient servant,

REGINALD C. WEBSTER.

GENERAL PROVISIONS OF HEALTH SERVICES.

Ambulances	}	Provided by Lancashire County Council.
Home Nursing		
Home Helps		
Maternity & Child Welfare		
School Medical Service		
Tuberculosis (Home Visiting)		
Welfare of Aged	}	Provided by Manchester Regional Hospital Board.
Hospitals		
Venereal Diseases Treatment		
Tuberculosis Treatment		
Laboratory		At local hospitals and Manchester Public Health Laboratory.
Public Analyst - - -		Mr. S. E. Melling, F.R.I.C.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE BOROUGH.

Water Supply.

As stated in previous Reports the present supply has reached the limits of its capacities, but steps are being taken by the Water Board to remedy the situation.

It is anticipated that the bulk supply from Burnley will materialise in 1954, and, if the Haweswater Aqueduct is in operation by 1955, water resources will be further supplemented. It has recently been announced by the Board that in addition to these sources investigations are to proceed with two more possible schemes, a borehole supply and a disused colliery shaft.

Housing.

See Sanitary Inspector's Report. The problem remains very large.

A. No. of new houses built in 1952—

1. By the Corporation, 168.
2. By other bodies or persons, 23.

- B. 1. No. on waiting list for houses, 711.
 2. No. of applicants known to be living in lodgings, 38.
- C. 1. No. of cases of overcrowding brought to notice during the year, Nil.
 2. No. of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year, Nil.

TUBERCULOSIS.

Forty-two (42) new cases of Tuberculosis were notified during the year; of these 38 were respiratory cases and 4 non-respiratory.

The incidence of males to females infected was as follows :—

Respiratory 27 males, 11 females;

Non-Respiratory 1 male, 3 females.

Five (5) deaths were caused by this disease in 1952 and these were made up as follows :—

Respiratory 1 female, 3 males;

Non-Respiratory 0 females, 1 male.

The age groups into which these deaths fall can be seen on the statistical sheet on Tuberculosis.

Total number of cases on the active register at 31st December, 1952—

Respiratory	males 104,	females 69	=	173
Non-Respiratory	„ 36	„ 38	=	74
				247

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifications were received in respect of 304 cases during the year 1952. There were 21 cases of Scarlet Fever, 234 cases of Measles, 17 cases of Pneumonia, 31 cases of Whooping Cough, and 1 case of Dysentery.

ANALYSIS OF THE CAUSES OF DEATH.

There were 563 deaths registered in the Borough in 1952. Of these 277 were males and 286 females. The Death Rate for the year was 14.1, as compared with that for the country as a whole which was 11.3.

Heart Diseases headed the list as the cause of death, being responsible for 192 of the registered deaths. Intra-cranial diseases filled second place with 94 deaths, and Cancer came third with 83 deaths.

It will be seen then that

34.10%				due to Heart Diseases.
16.69%	„	„	„	Intra-cranial Lesions.
14.74%	„	„	„	Cancerous Diseases.
0.89%	„	„	„	Tuberculosis.

NATURAL AND SOCIAL CONDITIONS OF THE AREA.

Area (in acres), 4,418.

Population (Census 1931), 42,991.

Registrar-General's estimate of Resident population, mid 1952, 39,800.

Population—Preliminary Census, 1951, 40,671.

No. of inhabited houses (Census 1931). 12,019; (1952, 14,572).

Rateable Value, £263,001.

Sum represented by a penny rate, £1,054.

The social conditions of the Borough are good. Chief industries are textile weaving, finishing, and printing, textile and general engineering, etc.

VITAL STATISTICS (Provisional).

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Live Births—Legitimate	285	243	528
Illegitimate	11	12	23
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
	296	255	551
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

	Male.	Female.	Total.
Stillbirths	9	6	15
Deaths of Infants ^{under} over 1 year	7	7	14
Deaths (all ages)	277	286	563
Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population			13.8
Stillbirths—Rate per 1,000 total births (live and still)			26.5
Death rate per 1,000 estimated population			14.1

Deaths from puerperal causes:	Death-rate per 1,000 total	
	Deaths.	(live and still) births.
Puerperal & post-abortive sepsis	Nil.	Nil.
Other maternal causes	Nil.	Nil.
	<hr/>	<hr/>
	Nil.	Nil.
	<hr/>	<hr/>

Death-rate of infants under one year of age:

All infants per 1,000 live births	25.4
Legitimate infants per 1,000 legitimate live births ...	26.5
Illegitimate ,, ,, ,, illegitimate ,, ,,	Nil
Deaths from Cancer (all ages)	83
,, ,, Measles (all ages)	0
,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages)	0
,, ,, Diarrhœa (under 2 years of age)	2
,, ,, Pulmonary tuberculosis (all ages)	4
,, ,, Other forms of tuberculosis (all ages)	1

**TOTAL NUMBERS OF BIRTHS, DEATHS, INFANT
DEATHS AND INFANT MORTALITY
FOR THE PAST TEN YEARS.**

Year.	Births.	Deaths.	Infant Deaths	Infant Mortality
1952	551	563	14	25.4
1951	581	675	23	39.6
1950	564	614	22	39.0
1949	652	652	32	49.1
1948	690	548	23	33.3
1947	710	610	31	43.7
1946	638	617	25	39.2
1945	570	589	29	50.9
1944	567	564	23	40.6
1943	561	605	17	30.3
1942	508	556	20	39.4

**CAUSES OF DEATHS OF ACCRINGTON RESIDENTS
DURING 1952.**

	Male.	Female.	Total
Typhoid and Paratyphoid Fevers	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal Fever	—	—	—
Scarlet Fever	—	—	—
Whooping Cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of Respiratory System ...	3	1	4
Other forms of Tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic Diseases	2	—	2
Influenza	1	—	1
Measles	—	—	—
Acute Poliomyelitis & Polio-encephalitis	—	—	—
Acute infective encephalitis	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity and œsophagus (m) and uterus (f)	—	6	6
Cancer of Stomach and Duodenum ...	5	3	8
Cancer of Breast	—	3	3
Cancer of all other sites	38	28	66

Diabetes	1	3	4
Vascular Lesions of Nervous System ...	33	61	94
Heart Disease	92	100	192
Other diseases of Circulatory System...	6	9	15
Leukaemia, Aleukaemia	1	4	5
Bronchitis	27	7	34
Pneumonia	13	9	22
Other Respiratory Diseases	3	2	5
Ulcer of Stomach or Duodenum	7	5	12
Diarrhoea, under 2 years	1	1	2
Appendicitis	—	—	—
Other Digestive Diseases	—	—	—
Nephritis	2	3	5
Puerperal and Post-abortion Sepsis....	—	—	—
Other Maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature Birth	—	—	—
Congenital malformations, birth injuries, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	5	2	7
Road Traffic Accidents	4	1	5
Other violent causes	5	6	11
All other causes	26	31	57
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>
Totals	277	286	563
	<hr/>	<hr/>	<hr/>

INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

Notifiable diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year 1952.

	Total cases notified.
Smallpox	—
Scarlet Fever	21
Diphtheria (including membranous croup)	—
Food Poisoning	—
Enteric Fever (including paratyphoid)	—

Measles (excluding German Measles)	234
Whooping Cough	31
Acute pneumonia (primary and influenzal)	17
Puerperal pyrexia	—
Cerebro-spinal fever	—
Acute poliomyelitis	—
Acute polio-encephalitis	—
Encephalitis lethargica	—
Dysentery	1
Ophthalmia neonatorum	—
Erysipelas	—
Malaria (contracted in this country)	—
(Abroad)	—
	<hr/>
	Total 304
	<hr/>

TUBERCULOSIS.

New Cases and Mortality during the year 1952.

NEW CASES.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	1	—	—	—
1	1	—	—	—
5	2	—	—	1
10	—	1	1	—
15	4	2	—	—
20	2	1	—	1
25	7	4	—	1
35	4	2	—	—
45	3	—	—	—
55	3	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
	<hr/>			
Totals	27	11	1	3
	<hr/>			

DEATHS.

Age Periods Years.	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.
0	—	—	—	—
1	—	—	—	—
5	—	—	—	—
10	—	—	—	—
15	—	—	—	—
20	—	—	—	—
25	—	—	1	—
35	—	—	—	—
45	1	—	—	—
55	2	1	—	—
65 and upwards	—	—	—	—
<hr/>				
Totals	3	1	1	—
<hr/>				

FOOD POISONING.

No cases were notified during the year.

SUPERANNUATION EXAMINATIONS.

In 1952 the following examinations were carried out, viz:—

	By M.O.H.	By Assistant M.O.
Superannuation Acts	41	65
Other examinations	13	4

SANITARY INSPECTION AND PUBLIC CLEANSING SERVICES.

ANNUAL REPORT, 1952.

Public Health and Cleansing Department,

Town Hall,

ACCRINGTON.

To the Mayor and Members of the Town Council.

Mr. Mayor, Ladies and Gentlemen,

I have the honour to submit my TWENTY-SIXTH Annual Report on the work of the Borough's Sanitary Inspectors for the year 1952, and on the Public Cleansing Services for the year ended 31st March, 1953.

In addition to the presentation of statistical information an endeavour has been made to provide useful comment, and careful perusal of the Report by members of the Council is invited.

WATER SUPPLY.

Water is supplied by the Accrington and District Water Board from upland sources (Reservoirs—Dean Clough, Mitchell's House, Burnley Road and Plantation Mill), and from underground sources (Altham Borehole and Rishton Colliery).

All public water supplies are passed through pressure filters and are chlorinated. Water from one reservoir (Mitchell's House) is soft moorland (peaty) water, having a low pH value, and is treated with lime and chalk after filtration to neutralise

acidity. Water from the other sources is not liable to plumbo-solvency, and daily examinations are carried out by the Water Board to ascertain pH value, a standard of 8.0 being sought.

The Board are always vigilant for contamination and exercise all due care in ensuring a safe and wholesome water supply. Routine samples are taken by the Board at monthly intervals from every source of supply, such samples being submitted for bacteriological examination by the Public Health Laboratory Service. The Water Engineer, Mr. R. Jackson, has kindly supplied the information that, during the year under review, 138 samples of water were submitted by the Board for bacteriological examination, together with 15 samples for chemical analysis, the results being satisfactory.

During the year ending 31st December, 1952, 1,565 yards of new mains were laid, such extensions including provision of mains to new housing estates.

The number of houses in the Borough which do not receive a mains' supply but have private supplies, e.g. wells, springs, etc., is approximately 50, these premises being situated in the rural parts of the town.

SANITARY ACCOMMODATION.

The number of waste water closets was further reduced during the year, 153 having been converted to the fresh water flushed type. Fresh water closets were substituted for pail closets in two cases.

The various types of sanitary convenience in use at dwelling-houses in the Borough are as follow:—

	1952	1926
Fresh water closets	8,858	2,195
Waste water closets	5,622	9,238
Pail closets	96	294

It will be observed from the preceding statistics that there is still a considerable number of waste water flushed sanitary conveniences, their conversion to the type flushed by fresh water being the principal sanitary requirement of the town. Progress during the last quarter of a century in improving the sanitary circumstances of the Borough is illustrated by a comparison of the statistics for the current year with those for 1926, the year, incidentally, when I took over control of the Department on the decease of my predecessor, Mr. R. Diggle.

In order to facilitate the carrying out of conversion work the Ministry of Housing and Local Government approved during the year the borrowing by the Corporation of a sum of £2,000 to cover the cost of grants-in-aid payable to property owners for a period of approximately 3 years.

Under the provisions of the Accrington Corporation Acts the local authority can require the substitution of fresh water closets for any other type of sanitary convenience, provided a sewer and water supply are available.

HOUSING ACTS AND PUBLIC HEALTH ACTS.

The following Table gives a summarised list of nuisances and housing defects discovered in dwelling-houses during the year and dealt with by the service of notices.

It will no doubt be realised that the statistics given represent a mere fraction of the Department's activities in connection with house disrepair, only the instances where it has been necessary to serve notice being indicated.

In many cases owners are persuaded to voluntarily remedy defects without the necessity of written notices. Such informal action occupies much of the inspectorate's time, but results are usually worth-while.

Internal.	Number found defective, insanitary or missing.
Window frames, etc.	115
Doors, door-casings, etc.	30
Boarded floors	6
Flagged floors	3
Staircases, handrails, etc.	7
Fireplaces and ranges	17
Ceiling and wall plaster	93
Dampness	135
Sinks and waste pipes	12
Chimney flues	5
Water in cellar	2
External.	
Dustbins and lids	527
Dustbin-shed doors	14
Water pipes and fittings	3
Gullies	19
Fresh water closets and fittings	6
Waste water closets and trough closets ...	12
W.C. and coal store structures	27
Drains	17
Yard surfaces	1
Chimney stacks and pots	7
Eaves gutters	30
Rain water pipes	29
Roofs	12
Yard walls and external brickwork	6
Pointing or cement rendering	40
	<hr/> 1,175 <hr/>

In addition, blockages were removed from drains and sanitary conveniences at 1,639 premises.

HOUSING STATISTICS.

Number of houses erected during the year :—

	Prefabricated Houses (Permanent)	Traditional Permanent Houses	Flats
(a) By the local authority	116	23	24
(b) By other local authorities ...	—	1	—
(c) By other bodies or persons ...	—	22	—

1. Inspection of dwelling-houses during the year :—

(1) (a) Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	274
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	876
(2) (a) Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925 and 1932 ...	4
(b) Number of inspections made for the purpose	16
(3) Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	5
(4) Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head) found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	269

2. Remedy of defects during the year without service of formal notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the local authority or their officers	207
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3. Action under statutory powers during the year :—

(a) Proceedings under sections 9, 10 and 16 of the Housing Act, 1936 :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring repairs	2
(2) Number of dwelling-houses which were rendered fit after service of formal notices :—	
(a) by owners	Nil
(b) by local authority in default of owners	2
(b) Proceedings under Public Health Acts :	
(1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which notices were served requiring defects to be remedied	Nil

- (2) Number of dwelling-houses in which defects were remedied after service of formal notices:—
- (a) By owners Nil.
- (b) By local authority in default of owners Nil.
- (c) Proceedings under sections 11 and 13 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of dwelling-houses in respect of which Demolition Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of dwelling-houses demolished in pursuance of Demolition Orders Nil.
- (d) Proceedings under section 12 of the Housing Act, 1936:
- (1) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were made Nil.
- (2) Number of separate tenements or underground rooms in respect of which Closing Orders were determined, the tenement or room having been rendered fit Nil.
4. Housing Act, 1936.—Part IV—Overcrowding:—
- (a) (i) Number of dwellings overcrowded at the end of the year..... } No
(ii) Number of families dwelling therein..... } information
(iii) Number of persons dwelling therein } under
this head.
- (b) Number of new cases of overcrowding reported during the year Nil
- (c) (i) Number of cases of overcrowding relieved during the year Nil.
- (ii) Number of persons concerned in such cases Nil.
5. Housing Act, 1949:—
- No schemes for the improvement of existing housing accommodation were submitted.

NOTICES SERVED.

Form of Notice:—	1952.
Intimation (preliminary)	559
Statutory	8
	<hr/>
	567
	<hr/>

HOUSING AND SLUM CLEARANCE.

Since the end of the war the housing of the homeless has been a matter of the utmost priority, and it should be a cause for satisfaction that the Council have successfully endeavoured to fulfil their obligations. According to lists revised in March, 1953, there were 711 applicants for Corporation houses, of whom 38 were living in lodgings, which is a remarkable decline considering that the corresponding numbers at the end of 1951 were 1,858 and 691 respectively.

I have referred in previous Reports to the needs of those who are living in sub-standard houses, and have emphasized the evil physical and moral effects on the individual of bad housing. It is therefore extremely gratifying to the Department that for the first time since 1939 thoughts can turn to slum clearance. While modern houses have been built in their hundreds in the town, we have been painfully aware that many families are living in misery and squalor in slums which your Sanitary Inspectors reported unfit for human habitation in 1938.

The turn of these families has now arrived, and a start has been made with the largest slum area in the town, the Bridge Street—Davy Street—Bank Street area. This district was declared a clearance area in 1939, and was the subject of a Ministry of Health Inquiry in that year. However, as slum clearance was suspended with the outbreak of war, the Minister's decision was not promulgated. In view of the fact that the Corporation is now in a position to re-house the tenants, Ministerial confirmation of the Clearance Order of 1939 has been received at the time of writing.

This particular area includes 29 dwelling-houses, in addition to which there are also a further 67 houses in the Borough which the Department inspected before the war with a view to slum clearance, of which 13 were subsequently acquired by the Corporation; 50 of these houses are situated in Baxenden. A further area of 15 houses was not dealt with by clearance area procedure, but was to receive special consideration as comprising houses incapable of repair at reasonable expense. Certain other houses

in the town have already been closed or demolished as the result of informal action by the Department.

During and since the war it has not been easy for Sanitary Inspectors to secure necessary repairs to condemned property, the most we could do being to enforce weatherproof and water-tight conditions, in which connection we are pleased that the end of this frustration is in sight.

COMMON LODGING HOUSES.

There are in the Borough 3 registered common lodging houses, their condition and conduct being satisfactory. 149 visits were paid.

INFECTIOUS DISEASES AND DISINFECTION.

202 visits were paid in connection with cases of infectious disease and the disinfection of infected articles and premises. The following table gives details of disinfections carried out during the year.

DISINFECTIONS.

	1952
Rooms of dwelling-houses	180
Schools	—
Books	103
Beds	68
Articles of Bedding	424
Articles of Clothing	48
	<hr/>
	823
	<hr/>

ERADICATION OF BED BUGS.

During the year 5 houses were disinfested. Satisfactory results were obtained by the use of "D.D.T." solution.

DESTRUCTION OF RATS AND MICE.

The majority of infestations which arise in surface properties originate from the public sewers, rats gaining access to the premises chiefly by way of defective drains, etc.

In order to attack rats at their source the Department has since 1945 carried out regular and systematic bi-annual sewer treatments involving the laying of poison baits in manholes. Such treatments have had a considerable effect in reducing the rat population of the sewers and therefore of surface premises.

Hitherto sewer treatments have been carried out by the Department with the co-operation of the Borough Engineer, approximately 40 employees of his Department working under the supervision of my staff for two separate weeks in the year. During the year under review, however, a different system was put into operation, two employees of the Health and Cleansing Department being employed throughout the year on sewer baiting. The new system has proved itself more economical both as regards cost and labour involved, while maintaining efficiency. 1,893 sewer manholes were baited during the period, in conjunction with which 288 manholes were "test-baited".

Systematic inspection and treatment of surface properties for rats and mice were continued throughout the year.

The methods of control adopted for the Borough were those recommended by the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries, from whom grant aid was available to the extent of 50% of the approved net expenditure incurred.

217 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with rodent control measures.

PET ANIMALS ACT, 1951.

The above-mentioned Act came into operation on 1st April, 1952, and the Council delegated the powers and responsibilities devolving on them from its provisions to the Public Health Department.

The Act provides for the licensing of pet shops, and, in deciding whether to grant a licence, the local authority is required to have regard to the need for securing that there will be provided accommodation suitable as regards size, temperature, lighting, ventilation and cleanliness; that there will be an adequate supply of suitable food and drink; that the animals will not be sold at too early an age; that all reasonable precautions will be taken to prevent the spread of infectious diseases; and that appropriate steps will be taken in case of fire or other emergency.

Licences were granted in respect of 6 pet shops.

OFFENSIVE TRADES.

One gut scraper and four tripe dressers carry on scheduled offensive trades on 5 separate premises. The conduct of these trades was, on the whole, satisfactory.

ATMOSPHERIC POLLUTION.

During the year, the Council agreed to participate in the Investigation of Atmospheric Pollution along the lines recommended by the Fuel Research Station of the Department of Scientific and Industrial Research. This necessitated purchase of a standard deposit gauge which was erected on the Town Hall roof, the site having been chosen as the one likely to produce data representative of domestic and industrial pollution in the town.

Effective action to reduce pollution in the atmosphere must be based on reliable knowledge of its nature and extent. Only by continuous measurement by scientifically standardised methods

can the effect of such action be estimated. Any attempt to alleviate the danger and loss to the nation caused by smoke and other impurities in the air therefore requires a scientific investigation of the facts of pollution.

Many other local authorities in the country are participating in the scheme, the Fuel Research Station co-operating with authorities and acting in an advisory and co-ordinating capacity. Results of investigations are collated and circulated monthly to local authorities, thereby enabling an overall view of pollution throughout the country to be obtained in addition to comparisons between authorities.

Observations lasting for five years are considered best for determining average values of atmospheric pollution, such period being necessary before reliable conclusions can be drawn about the average level of pollution or the rate at which it is being produced.

In this connection it may be pointed out that a rapid survey of deposited solid matter by the use of petri dishes was made in 1948, the results being included in Professor J. S. Allen's "Plan for Accrington". Petri dish surveys are a convenient way of determining the distribution of dry deposited matter over a district during a period of 24 or 48 hours, but cannot be used to determine the average rate at which pollution is deposited, this being the function of the deposit gauge.

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1948.

The number of Factories on the Register is as follows:—

(i) Factories with mechanical power	235
(ii) Factories without mechanical power	49
(iii) Other premises under the Acts (including works of building and engineering construction but not including outworkers' premises)	10

410 visits were paid in connection with the conduct of Factories. In 2 instances it was necessary to call the attention of occupiers or owners to sanitary defects, in both cases the remedy being applied without resorting to formal action.

STORAGE OF PETROLEUM SPIRIT AND CARBIDE.

49 visits were paid to premises where petroleum spirit and carbide are stored, three new installations for the storage of petroleum spirit being approved during the year.

Licences were issued as follow :—

To store Petroleum Spirit	74
To store Carbide	5
To store Petroleum Mixtures ...	1

Co-operation between the Department and the Lancashire County Fire Brigade in the administration of the Petroleum (Regulation) Acts, 1928 and 1936, was continued during the year by courtesy of the Chief Officer, Mr. J. Clitherow.

All premises in respect of which new applications for petroleum licences were made during the year were inspected jointly by a Sanitary Inspector and the District Fire Prevention Officer, in addition to which certain existing installations were similarly inspected.

The specialised fire prevention knowledge of the staff of the County Fire Brigade is of inestimable value in the control of petrol storage, and, subject to the availability of Mr. Clitherow's staff, it is expected that all existing installations in the Borough will have been inspected and reported upon in the not too distant future.

DISEASES OF ANIMALS ACTS.

One case of anthrax was notified in the Borough and all requisite steps were taken by the Department to ensure disinfection of the premises, the carcase being incinerated at the Refuse Disposal Works.

In order to prevent the spread of foot-and-mouth disease a large part of the country, including Lancashire, was designated a controlled area on May 5th, 1952. Restrictions on the movement of animals were imposed throughout the area, being subsequently withdrawn when the danger had passed.

The following licences and notices were issued during the year, viz:—

(a) **Movement Licences:**

Regulation of Movement of Swine Order, 1950.....	2
Foot-and-Mouth Disease (Controlled Areas Restrictions) General Order, 1938	32
Live Poultry (Restrictions) Order, 1952	12

(b) **Notices:**

Anthrax Order, 1938	1
Fowl Pest Order, 1936	1

SAMPLING OF FOOD AND DRUGS.

(a) **Food and Drugs Acts, 1938 to 1950.**

Shown below is a Return of all samples of food and drugs analysed by the Public Analyst under the provisions of the Acts during the year.

300 visits were paid by Sanitary Inspectors in connection with the sampling of food and drugs.

Article of food or drug	Number analysed	Number adulterated or non-standard.	Percentage adulterated or non-standard.
Milk	90	18	20.0
Sausage	5	1	20.0
Potted Meat	3	—	—
Beef Paste	2	—	—

Salmon Paste	2	—	—
Fish Cakes	1	—	—
Cooking Fat	1	—	—
Suet	1	—	—
Margarine	1	—	—
Rice	1	1	100.0
Ground Rice	2	—	—
Sago	1	—	—
Sugared Coconut	1	—	—
Desiccated Coconut	1	—	—
Ground Ginger	2	—	—
White Pepper	1	—	—
Mixed Spice	1	—	—
Sage & Onion Stuffing	1	—	—
Malt Vinegar	1	—	—
Coffee	4	—	—
Jam	1	—	—
Lemon Curd	1	—	—
Worcester Sauce	1	—	—
Mint Sauce	1	—	—
Cake Mixture	1	—	—
Sponge Mixture	2	—	—
Gravy Powder	1	—	—
Almond Flavour	1	—	—
Whey Cream	1	—	—
Dried Onions	1	—	—
Table Jelly	2	—	—
Gelatine	1	—	—
Lemon Squash	1	—	—
Saccharin Tablets	1	—	—
Liquid Paraffin	1	—	—
Olive Oil and			
Raspberry Vinegar	1	—	—
Cough Mixture	1	—	—
Cough Candy	1	—	—
Boracic Ointment	1	—	—
	<hr/> 143	<hr/> 20	<hr/> 14.0

The eighteen sub-standard milk samples were obtained from six vendors, details of the samples and action taken being as follow, viz:—

1. **Vendor A.**

Two retail samples revealed deficiencies in non-fatty solids to the extent of 2.3% and 3.5% respectively, in consequence of which the vendor was cautioned.

2. **Vendor B.**

A retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 20.6%, while the corresponding "appeal to cow" sample taken at the farm was reported genuine. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £5 and costs being imposed.

3. **Vendor C.**

A retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 10.3%, while two corresponding "appeal to cow" samples were both reported deficient in milk fat to the extent of 13.3%. The vendor was cautioned.

4. **Vendor D.**

An informal sample of milk revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 10%, in consequence of which the producer was cautioned.

5. **Vendor E.**

A retail sample revealed a deficiency in milk fat to the extent of 35%, while the corresponding "appeal to cow" sample was reported genuine. The vendor was prosecuted, a fine of £5 and costs being imposed.

6. **Vendor F.**

Two retail samples revealed deficiencies in non-fatty solids to the extent of 3.1% and 4.0% respectively and also the presence of 3.2% and 2.4% respectively of extraneous water. Eight "appeal to cow" samples were subsequently taken at the farm and were all reported sub-standard in varying degrees. On the advice of the Public Analyst proceedings were not instituted, the vendor being cautioned.

An informal sample of sausages was certified deficient in meat content to the extent of 12%, and a sample of rice was reported to contain an undesirable proportion of foreign elements. The vendors were cautioned.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

All bacteriological examinations of milk samples continue to be carried out by the Department of Pathology, Royal Infirmary, Blackburn.

During the year 29 samples of pasteurised milk and one of tuberculin tested (pasteurised) milk were submitted for the phosphatase, methylene blue and coliform tests; all samples satisfied the legally prescribed tests.

7 samples of sterilised milk were taken and were reported to comply with the turbidity test.

54 samples of tuberculin tested milk were submitted for the methylene blue and coliform tests. 2 samples supplied by the same producer failed the prescribed test and appropriate action was taken in respect of them.

MILK AND DAIRIES.

(a) **Milk and Dairies Regulations, 1949.**

In accordance with these Regulations duties in connection with the supervision of milk production on farms were transferred from local authorities to the Ministry of Agriculture and Fisheries in 1949.

Local authorities, however, retained their duties in connection with the control of milk distribution, including the registration of distributors.

147 milk distributors were registered under the Regulations.

(b) **Milk (Special Designations) Regulations, 1949.**

The special designations permitted for raw milk are (a) Tuberculin Tested, and (b) Accredited, those for heat-treated milk being principally (a) Pasteurised, and (b) Sterilised.

The following licences were granted under the Regulations, viz:—

Dealer's Licence (Sterilised)	117
„ „ (Pasteurised)	46
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	30
„ „ (Accredited)	0
Supplementary Licence (Sterilised)	2
„ „ (Pasteurised)	2
„ „ (Tuberculin Tested)	4
Pasteuriser's Licence	1

MEAT INSPECTION AND THE PUBLIC ABATTOIR.

The slaughter of livestock and the distribution of meat became subject to control by the Ministry of Food in January, 1940, and the scheme of control continues to operate. One effect of control has been to concentrate slaughtering practice, the number of slaughterhouses in use at the present time being approximately 495 as compared with over 15,000 pre-war. As previously stated the Accrington Public Abattoir caters for the town and surrounding districts, comprising a total population of 100,000, and the Corporation's Sanitary Inspectors are therefore responsible for meat inspection for the entire area.

Statistics relative to the incidence of disease, etc., are given in the subsequent Tables, in which connection it is pleasing to note that Table II indicates a continued decline in the incidence of disease, especially tuberculosis, among animals dealt with at the Abattoir.

I wish to emphasize again that all animals slaughtered are subjected to careful post-mortem examination. No meat is allowed to leave the Public Abattoir either for retail sale or manufacturing purposes until it has been passed by competent meat inspectors as fit for human consumption, all diseased or unsound meat and offals having been rejected and unhesitatingly surrendered by the Ministry.

TABLE I.—Carcases Inspected and Condemned.

	Cattle other than Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number of animals slaughtered and inspected	2746	2006	796	17380	2034
All diseases except Tuberculosis					
Whole carcasses condemned	1	1	1	13	4
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	473	610	2	961	189
Percentage of the number inspected affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	17.3%	30.5%	0.4%	5.6%	9.5%
	<u>22.8%</u>				
Tuberculosis only					
Whole carcasses condemned	14	96	3	—	8
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	308	941	2	—	173
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis	11.7%	51.2%	0.6%	—	8.9%
	<u>28.4%</u>				

TABLE II.—**Annual Comparisons.**

	1952	1951	1950	1949	1948
Number of cattle slaughtered and inspected	4,752	5,956	5,851	4,676	4,367
Percentage affected with disease other than Tuberculosis	22.8%	22.4%	23.8%	32.9%	50.4%
Percentage affected with Tuberculosis	28.4%	31.1%	37.8%	35.1%	28.9%
	—	—	—	—	—
Total Disease Percentage	51.2%	53.5%	61.6%	68.0%	79.3%
	—	—	—	—	—

TABLE III.—**Conditions Necessitating Condemnation of
Whole Carcases and Organs.**

Diseases	Cattle other than			Sheep and	
	Cows	Cows	Calves	Lambs	Pigs
Tuberculosis	14	96	3	—	8
Septic Diseases	—	—	1	—	3
Toxaemia	—	—	—	—	1
General Dropsy and Emaciation	—	—	—	9	—
General Bruising	—	1	—	3	—
Moribundity	—	—	—	1	—
Cysticercus Bovis	1	—	—	—	—
Total	15	97	4	13	12

TABLE IV.—Comparison of Condemned Meat and Offals.

	Weights of Condemned Meat and Offals.			
	1952		1951	
	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.	Meat lbs.	Offal lbs.
Tuberculosis	81,446	29,828	91,674	36,955
All diseases except Tuberculosis	7,084	37,377	12,151	47,747
Total Home Killed	88,530	67,205	103,825	84,702
Add Imported	1,365	279	1,143	238
Total Weight Condemned	89,895	67,484	104,968	84,940

INSPECTION OF OTHER FOODS.

2,826 visits were paid to miscellaneous food premises for the purpose of examination of food and inspection of premises. In no instance was it found necessary to resort to formal seizure of unsound food, all being surrendered voluntarily. The articles of food which were given up for destruction as being unfit for human consumption were as follow:—

Miscellaneous Canned Foods	4,512 tins
Miscellaneous Glass-packed Foods	329 articles
Cheese	95 lbs.
Butter	60 „
Fish	150 „
Cake Mixture	28 „
Nuts	6 „
Lard	4 „
Fruit	27 „
Minced Mutton	58 „
Tripe	92 „

Onions	56 ,,
Biscuits	4 ,,
Sweets	56 ,,
Rabbits	37 ,,
Dried Peas	1 lb.
Swiss Rolls	840
Hens	12

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948.

Section 50 of the above-mentioned Act imposes on the local authority the duty of causing to be buried or cremated the body of any person who has died in its area, in any case where it appears to the authority that no suitable arrangements for the disposal of the body will be made otherwise than by the authority.

During the financial year ending 31st March, 1953. one burial was effected without cost to the Corporation owing to receipt of death grant.

Since the Act came into operation fourteen burials have been effected, the funeral arrangements having been made in all cases by the Cemetery Registrar, Mr. D. Robertson, in collaboration with the Department, in which connection it is fitting to record the valuable co-operation and assistance given at all times by Mr. Robertson.

CLEANSING SERVICES.

COLLECTION AND DISPOSAL OF REFUSE.

Year Ended 31st March, 1953.

REFUSE DEALT WITH.

(1) Refuse Collected.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.
House and Shop Refuse	9,041	1	2
Clinker from Schools, etc.....	375	7	0
Market Refuse	174	11	2
Fish and Trade Refuse	537	16	0
	<hr/>		
	10,128	16	0
	<hr/>		

(2) Methods of Disposal of Refuse.

Taken to Tips (17.9%)	1,809	11	0
Dealt with at Disposal Works			
(a) Separation and			
Incineration (81.4%) 8,251 17 1			
(b) Direct Incineration			
(0.7%) 67 7 3			
	<hr/>		
	8,319	5	0
	<hr/>		
	10,128	16	0
	<hr/>		

(3) Weight of Refuse.

Actual weight	8,569	8	0
Estimated weight	412	13	0
Estimated weight from regular			
test weighings	1,146	15	0
	<hr/>		
	10,128	16	0
	<hr/>		

REFUSE DISPOSAL WORKS.

SALES.

Year ended 31st March, 1953.

	Tons	cwts.	qrs.	£	s.	d.
Waste Paper	237	15	3			
Textiles	31	4	1			
Compressed Destructor Scrap.	207	16	0			
Scrap Iron	59	15	2			
Lime Mortar	450	7	1			
Boiled Swill	713	1	1			
Feeding Meal	3	14	0			
Bottles	—	—	—			
	<hr/>			5,566	11	8
Value of Steam sold to adjoining Electricity Undertaking				800	0	0
				<hr/>		
				£6.366	11	8
				<hr/> <hr/>		

The distinctive feature of the year's salvage activities was the tremendous decline in revenue, receipts from sales amounting to £6,366 as compared with £12,555 for the previous year. This decrease was entirely due to the slump in the waste paper market, prices declined sharply and there was little demand even at reduced prices. At the time of writing this Report there has been some improvement in the position although it would be unwise to speculate on future prospects.

The changed situation was also felt by the Department's employees through the Incentive Bonus Payment Scheme in respect of waste paper. At the end of the year the sum of £107 13s. 1d. had been distributed among them as compared with £1,519 2s. 0d. during the year 1951-52.

CLEANSING SERVICE.**House and Trade Refuse**

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1953.

Item	Particulars. 1	Collection 2	Disposal 3	Total 4
Revenue Account.				
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	7,445	6,981	14,426
	(ii) Transport	8,855	1,232	10,087
	(iii) Plant, equipment, land and buildings	2,610	5,788	8,398
	(iv) Other items	58	29	87
	(v) Total gross expenditure	18,968	14,030	32,998
2	Gross Income	3,151	6,767	9,918
3	Net Cost	15,817	7,263	23,080
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (in- cluded above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
Unit Costs.				
		s. d.	s. d.	s. d.
5	Gross cost per ton, labour only	14 8.4	13 9.4	28 5.8
6	Gross cost per ton, transport only	17 5.8	2 5.2	19 11.0
7	Net cost (all expendi- ture) per ton	31 2.8	14 4.1	45 6.9
		£	£	£
8	Net cost per 1,000 popu- lation	392.1	180.0	572.1
9	Net cost per 1,000 premises	1,017.4	467.2	1,484.6

1. Area (statute acres)	4,418
2. Population at 30th June, 1951	40,340
3. Total refuse collected (tons)	10,129
4. Weight (cwts.) per 1,000 population per day (365 days to year)	13.8
5. Number of premises from which refuse is collected...	15,546
6. Average haul by collection vehicle to disposal point... approx. $\frac{7}{8}$ mile.	

CLEANSING SERVICE.**Street Cleansing.**

Table showing Costs for the year ended 31st March, 1953.

Item	Particulars	Street Sweeping & Watering	Street Gully Cleansing	Total
	1	2	3	4
	Revenue Account.			
1	Gross Expenditure:	£	£	£
	(i) Labour	3,937	299	4,236
	(ii) Transport	2,561	1,116	3,677
	(iii) Plant, Equipment, buildings, etc.	1,253	100	1,353
	(iv) Other items	45	—	45
	(v) Total gross expenditure	7,796	1,515	9,311
2	Gross Income (excluding reimbursements from Ministry of Transport and the County Council)	1,053	276	1,329
3	Net Cost	6,743	1,239	7,982
4	Capital expenditure met from revenue (included above)	Nil	Nil	Nil
5	Gross expenditure on snow clearance not included previously	1,596	—	—
	Unit Costs			
6	Net cost per street mile cleansed	s. d. 49 0.5	—	—
7	Net cost per 1,000 street gullies cleansed	£ —	£ 192.7	£ —
8	Net cost per 1,000 population	167.2	30.7	197.9

1.	Mileage of streets cleansed	71.42
2.	Frequency of cleansing: %	
	(a) At least once daily	3.6
	(b) Three to five times weekly	6.2
	(c) Twice weekly	2.9
	(d) Once weekly	16.1
	(e) Less than once weekly	71.2
	—	100.0%
3.	Total miles cleansed	2,750
4.	Number of street gullies cleansed	6,430
5.	Number of gully cleansings during the year	20,801

REFUSE COLLECTION—DISTRICT EFFICIENCY.

DISTRICT:

	Spring Hill & Higher Antley	West and North	East and South	North, Peel Park & Huncoat	Centre
Total emptyings	122,160	162,757	132,660	147,365	118,725
Total tonnage	1,728.8	1,771.1	1,578.9	2,080.1	1,416.8
Bins per man per hour	14	18	15	15	13
Weight per man per hour... (excluding weight of bin)	lbs. 435	lbs. 450	lbs. 398	lbs. 465	lbs. 360
Weight per bin (lbs.)	32	24	27	32	27
No. of bins for District.....	3,173	3,011	2,964	3,492	2,483
Frequency of emptyings	38	54	45	42	48

VEHICLE PERFORMANCE TABLE.

Vehicle	Purchased	Actual hours worked	Repairs	Cleaning	% Hours Running	Hours Holidays	Hours rained off, etc.
S. and D. TE 9389	September 1929	2219½	18½	160½	88.8	98	3½
S. and D. OTC 910	June 1952	1685	33½	121	87.6	72	11½
Dennis 1 ATC 439	September 1935	1890¾	250½	250	75.2	120	3½
Dennis 2 BFD 22	November 1936	2280¾	78½	155	85.9	98	43
Dennis 3 ETE 269	November 1939	1779½	60	111½	67.7	53	*624½
Dennis 4 FTJ 18	November 1945	2292½	171½	150½	84.3	98	8
Dennis 5 JTD 464	May 1948	2264¾	175¾	119½	84.1	93	11½
Dennis 6 LTJ 528	June 1950	2379½	148¾	156	86.9	53	—
Karrier 1 FTD 769	January 1944	1914¾	335½	138½	77.0	98	1
Karrier 2 JTF 386	September 1948	2351½	64½	160½	89.1	53	9½
Karrier 3 KTF 954	August 1949	2318½	96¾	154½	86.6	96	11½
Lewin MTE 126	December 1950	1813½	284¾	459½	66.3	53	124
Total		25189¾	1718	2166	81.5	985	851

*For the last quarter of the year this vehicle was used only for relief work during conditions of snow and frost, and was subsequently scrapped.

QUANTITATIVE (SEASONAL) REFUSE ANALYSIS.

	1952-53			
	Summer		Winter	
	Weight	%	Weight	%
	lbs.		lbs.	
Weight of one cubic yard.....	556	100.0	768	100.0
Fine dust minus 5/16"	224	40.3	363	47.3
Fuel cinder 5/16" to 3/4"	60	10.8	117	15.2
Fuel cinder over 3/4"	35	6.3	78	10.2
Organic matter	23	4.1	17	2.2
Paper	50	9.0	51	6.6
Metal	52	9.3	33	4.3
Rags	10	1.8	13	1.7
Glass	43	7.7	39	5.1
Bone	5	0.9	7	0.9
Unclassified combustible	12	2.2	23	3.0
Unclassified incombustible	42	7.6	27	3.5
Average weight per bin	25		33	

As indicated in my previous Report the long term policy for disposal of the town's refuse must inevitably provide for continuance of the existing Refuse Disposal Works, with a moderate but systematic programme of repairs and improvements each year. Tipping is a cheaper alternative in districts where there is no scarcity of suitable and accessible sites, but this is not the case in Accrington. Such small areas of land as are available for tips are required for Destructor outgoings such as screened dust, clinker, etc., or for tipping domestic refuse during periods when the works are closed, and would soon be filled up if 10,000 tons of household refuse were to be tipped there each year.

Considering the fact that we are a "Destructor Town" it would at first sight appear strange that 17.9% of the refuse collected is taken to tips; the reason is of course that refuse has to be disposed of in this manner when the works are closed either for holidays or repairs, etc. Stoppages have in recent years become increasingly frequent due mainly to progressive deterioration of

the water tube boilers used for supplying steam to the adjoining Electricity Works for the past 25 to 35 years.

However, the end of such dislocation is now in sight, agreement having been reached with the B.E.A. for complete removal of the boilers and subsequent reforming of flues and dampers. During the year one boiler was removed and the flue rebuilt, and the other boiler has been removed at the time of writing. When the flues are entirely completed it is expected that draught to the furnaces will be much improved, in addition to which there will be no further stoppages due to repairs to water tube boilers.

Another consequence of the boiler demolition has been that the swill boiling plant has been dismantled. For some time it had been apparent that the profit margin from the processing of kitchen waste was steadily decreasing, even though steam was supplied free from the Electricity Works. It was therefore decided that at the end of the financial year under review swill boiling would cease, although collection of kitchen waste would continue and the material sold to a private firm for processing. Careful costings showed that this would be a better financial proposition, and would also allow the Disposal Works to be divorced from the Electricity Works except for steam supply to the furnaces.

It has therefore been a satisfactory year so far as progress at the Works is concerned as the problem of the future means of disposal for the town's refuse has now been solved.

Progress has also been maintained in other directions. In 1950 horse-drawn transport was completely eliminated from the Cleansing Services, in consequence of which I recommended in July, 1951, that the remaining portion of the Stables be converted to garage accommodation, the Smithy and Wheelwrights Shop being altered to motor repair shops. Plans were prepared and the Council applied to the Ministry of Housing and Local Government for authority to carry out the proposed conversion work, but

sanction could not be given chiefly on account of the steel situation at the time. Conditions subsequently improved and consent was finally granted in December, 1952. The necessary work is now in hand, and when completed the Corporation will possess a modern and well equipped Cleansing Depot comparable with that of any other town of its size. An 8-ton heavy duty electric vehicle lift is to be installed.

In conclusion, I should again like to say a few words of appreciation on behalf of the Department. Our thanks are due to the Mayor and every member of the Town Council, not forgetting the Chairman, Vice-Chairman and members of the Health and Cleansing Committee, for a continuation of their encouragement and support throughout the past twelve months. We thank also the Town Clerk, Borough Treasurer, Borough Engineer and other colleague Officials and their staffs for their usual co-operation and assistance. My personal thanks are also due to Dr. Webster, Medical Officer of Health and Divisional Medical Officer, for his continued backing and willing assistance at all times, and, finally, to a very capable and loyal staff and body of employees for services well and truly rendered.

I am, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Yours obediently,

J. A. HINDLE,

Chief Sanitary Inspector and
Cleansing Superintendent.

